

May 28, 2009

Springfield, Illinois

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION**

The tenth meeting of the Interpreter Licensure Board was held on Thursday, May 28, 2009, at the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission Office, 1630 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois.

### **I. Call to Order**

Dana Craig, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. on May 28, 2009.

#### **Members Present:**

Dana Craig  
Somone Bowman  
Becki Combs

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel  
Teri Hedding  
Karen Janssen

Paul Menkis  
Janet Lambert

#### **Members Absent:**

None.

#### **Interpreters:**

Sheila Chapman, CSC

Marilyn Corlett, CSC

#### **Public:**

Merian J. Norris  
Marissa Larson  
Kevin E. Jackson, IRID Member-at-Large

#### **IDHHC Staff Present:**

Tonia R. Bogener, Legal Counsel

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Dana Craig moved to approve the minutes as presented. Teri Hedding seconded. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding, Karen Janssen and Paul Menkis; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

### **III. Interpreter Coordinator Report**

Janet Lambert updated the Licensure Board on the following:

- Funds unused from FY 09 will be carried over to FY 10. To date, total receipts from interpreter licensure is \$132,425.00 and total expenditures is \$44,132.00.
- There have been 73 interpreter licenses issued since the last Board meeting. The total number of licensed interpreters as of today exceeds 600. This number is near the number of active interpreters registered with IDHHC pre-licensure.
- IDHHC has hosted 15 workshops throughout the state with 481 total participants.
- One hundred and sixty (160) interpreters have registered for the IDHHC conference.
- IDHHC responded to correspondence from Nicole R. Montgomery, Executive Director of CAIRS and Robert F. Kilbury, Director, DHS – Division of Rehabilitation Services with regard to the application of Interpreter Licensure requirements. Copies were provided to the Board.
- IDHHC has had 6 complaints filed under the Interpreter Licensure Act.
- SB 1738 involving the interpreter privilege passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature. IDHHC will introduce an amendment in January 2010 about what information is to be published on the Interpreter Licensure Directory.
- IDHHC has completed the interview process for the Interpreter Coordinator position. At this time, a selection has not been made.

### **IV. Unfinished Business**

#### **a. IDHHC Deaf Interpreter Knowledge Based Test**

Teri Hedding moved to have a closed meeting in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(15). Becki Combs seconded. Dana Craig left the meeting. She plans to take the IDHHC Deaf Interpreter Knowledge Based Test and cannot participate in this portion of the meeting. All in favor: Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding, Karen Janssen and Paul Menkis; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened at 11:45 a.m. to open meeting.

#### **b. State Interpreter Performance Test**

Janet Lambert indicated that California is no longer administering a test; Kansas is still developing a test; and Texas is willing to sell a license for use of its test. If the Texas test is used, it cannot be changed. Tonia Bogener said the rules would have to be changed if a new test is accepted for Illinois state licensure. Paul Menkis expressed concern about a test from another state may use regional signs and have dialect differences.

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel moved that the Board is not interested in staff researching interpreting tests that test on separate skills. The test should be comprehensive. Karen Janssen seconded. All in favor:

Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding and Karen Janssen; Opposed: None; Abstained: Paul Menkis. Motion carried.

Becki Combs moved that IDHHC staff continue to research the Texas interpreter certification test and evaluate how it may be implemented in Illinois and report its findings to the Board at its next meeting. Paul Menkis seconded. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding, Karen Janssen and Paul Menkis; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

## **V. New Business**

### **a. Complaint Process**

Tonia Bogener reviewed the complaint process for the Board. Anonymous complaints cannot be accepted. A complaint can be submitted via video. Complainants will be notified if a complaint will be investigated or not. If it will be investigated a letter will be sent to the interpreter and the interpreter has 30 days to respond. If not resolved within 30 days, witnesses will be contacted. One member of the licensure board will be involved in any informal settlement process. If IDHHC cannot resolve the complaint, then it is referred to IDPFR. It is required that a different Board member is involved in any informal process and the administrative hearing. Board members will be rotated based on geographic location and possible conflict of interest.

Concerns were discussed about referral agencies and other providers using unlicensed interpreters. Ms. Bogener explained that IDHHC does not have any enforcement authority but can send educational letters to those entities. Questions were also raised about how IDHHC will verify that interpreters are meeting the CEU requirements. Ms. Bogener explained if a complaint is filed, IDHHC will investigate that specific interpreter. Otherwise, all audits will be randomly conducted to confirm compliance.

The Board recessed briefly at 1:45 p.m.

### **b. IDHHC Conference**

Licensure Board Members are encouraged to attend the IDHHC Interpreter Conference on this Friday and Saturday. The Board should take this opportunity to introduce themselves to the interpreting community.

IDHHC is in the process of updating its Website. Specific changes have been submitted to CMS. In the future, IDHHC will have a separate listing for Deaf Interpreters. Additionally, a new FAQ has been developed for CEU's. All brochures and FAQ will be posted on the website.

**c. FY10 Meeting Dates**

Becki Combs moves that the Licensure Board meet the following dates in FY 2010:

9/8/09 12:30 – 5:00 (closed session) and 9/9/09 9 – 5  
11/3/09 9 – 5  
1/21/10 9 – 5  
3/11/10 9 – 5  
5/13/10 9 – 5

Shelley Engstrom-Kestel seconded. All in favor: Dana Craig, Somone Bowman, Becki Combs, Shelley Engstrom-Kestel, Teri Hedding, Karen Janssen and Paul Menkis; Opposed: None; Abstained: None. Motion carried.

**V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

**(Signature on File)**

Dana Craig, Chair

Date

**(Signature on File)**

Karen Janssen, Secretary

Date